United Nations A/RES/57/202

General Assembly

Distr.: General
16 January 2003

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 109 (*a*)

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/57/556/Add.1)*]

### 57/202. Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its resolution 55/90 of 4 December 2000, as well as other relevant resolutions, and taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2002/85 of 26 April 2002,[1]

*Reaffirming* that the full and effective implementation of United Nations human rights instruments is of major importance to the efforts of the Organization, pursuant to the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[2] to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Considering* that the effective functioning of treaty bodies established pursuant to United Nations human rights instruments is indispensable for the full and effective implementation of such instruments,

*Reaffirming* the contribution of the human rights treaty bodies, within their mandates, to the prevention of violations of human rights, in the context of their consideration of reports submitted pursuant to their respective treaties,

*Reiterating its concern* about the lack of adequate resources, which impedes the effective functioning of the human rights treaty bodies,

*Recalling* that the effectiveness of the treaty bodies in encouraging the realization by States parties of their obligations under United Nations human rights instruments requires constructive dialogue aimed at assisting States parties in identifying solutions to human rights problems, which should be based on the reporting process supplemented by information from all relevant sources, which should be made available to all interested parties,

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[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2002, Supplement No. 3* (E/2002/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[2] Resolution 217 A (III).

*Recalling also* the initiatives taken by a number of human rights treaty bodies to elaborate early warning measures and urgent procedures, within their mandates, with a view to preventing the occurrence or recurrence of serious human rights violations,

*Reaffirming* its responsibility for the effective functioning of the human rights treaty bodies, and reaffirming also the importance of:

(*a*) Promoting the effective functioning of the periodic reporting by States parties to those instruments,

(*b*) Securing sufficient financial, human and information resources for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to enable the human rights treaty bodies to carry out their mandates effectively, including in regard to their ability to work in the applicable working languages,

(*c*) Promoting greater efficiency and effectiveness through better coordination of the activities of the United Nations bodies active in the field of human rights, taking into account the need to avoid unnecessary duplication and overlapping of their mandates and tasks,

(*d*) Addressing questions of reporting obligations and financial implications when elaborating any further instruments on human rights,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General[3] and the reports of the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies on their thirteenth and fourteenth meetings,[4] held at Geneva from 18 to 22 June 2001 and from 24 to 26 June 2002 respectively, and also takes note of the conclusions and recommendations contained in the reports;

2. *Encourages* each human rights treaty body to continue to give careful consideration to the relevant conclusions and recommendations contained in the reports of the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies on their meetings, and, in this context, encourages enhanced cooperation and coordination among the treaty bodies;

3. *Welcomes* the holding of the first inter-committee meeting of the human rights treaty bodies, from 26 to 28 June 2002, to discuss issues of common concern, including issues relating to the methods of work of the treaty bodies, and encourages those bodies to continue this practice in future on an annual basis;

4. *Encourages* the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies to continue to invite representatives of States parties to participate in a dialogue within the framework of their meetings, and welcomes broad participation by States parties in the dialogue;

5. *Emphasizes* the need to ensure financing and adequate staff and information resources for the operations of the human rights treaty bodies, particularly in view of the additional demands placed on the system by the new reporting requirements and the increasing number of ratifications and, with this in mind:

(*a*) Reiterates its request that the Secretary-General provide adequate resources in respect of each human rights treaty body, while making the most

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[3] A/57/476.

[4] See A/57/56 and A/57/399 and Corr.1.

efficient use of existing resources, in order to give the treaty bodies adequate administrative support and better access to technical expertise and relevant information;

(*b*) Calls upon the Secretary-General to seek, in the next biennium, the resources within the regular budget of the United Nations necessary to give the human rights treaty bodies adequate administrative support and better access to technical expertise and relevant information;

(*c*) Welcomes the plans of action prepared by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to enhance the resources available to all the human rights treaty bodies and thereby strengthen the implementation of the human rights treaties, and encourages all Governments, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and interested persons to consider contributing to the appeal for extrabudgetary resources for the treaty bodies made by the High Commissioner until the regular budget funding meets their needs;

6. *Takes note* of the measures taken by each of the human rights treaty bodies to improve their functioning, as reflected in their respective annual reports, and encourages continuing efforts by the treaty bodies, with the assistance of the Secretary-General, to help States parties to improve their ability to meet their reporting obligations;

7. *Welcomes* the efforts by the human rights treaty bodies and the States parties, with the assistance of the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner, to improve the effectiveness of the treaty body system, and encourages them to continue to examine ways of further improving its effectiveness, inter alia, by streamlining and otherwise improving reporting procedures;

8. *Also welcomes* the initiative taken by certain human rights treaty bodies to set page limitations for the initial and periodic reports of States parties, and encourages other treaty bodies to consider setting page limitations;

9. *Requests* each State party to update its core document, incorporating as necessary material common to its multiple reports to the human rights treaty bodies;

10. *Commends* the recent efforts by the human rights treaty bodies, with the assistance of the Office of the High Commissioner, to improve the petition system and to reduce the backlog;

11. *Reiterates* that a priority of the Office of the High Commissioner should be to provide assistance to States parties, upon their request and, if possible, in coordination with other United Nations bodies, Governments and other interested parties, in order:

(*a*) To assist those States in the process of ratifying United Nations human rights instruments;

(*b*) To assist States to implement their obligations under such instruments, including the preparation of their initial reports;

12. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner and the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to enhance awareness of the availability of technical assistance for States parties;

13. *Welcomes*, in this respect, the first regional pilot workshop for dialogue on the concluding observations of the Human Rights Committee, held at Quito from 27 to 29 August 2002;

14. *Encourages* the human rights treaty bodies and the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to identify specific possibilities for technical assistance, to be provided at the request of the State concerned, in the regular course of their work of reviewing the periodic reports of States parties, and encourages States parties to consider carefully the concluding observations of the treaty bodies in identifying their needs for technical assistance;

15. *Invites* States parties that have not yet submitted their initial reports pursuant to United Nations human rights instruments to avail themselves, where necessary, of technical assistance for this purpose;

16. *Welcomes* the efforts to eliminate the backlog of reports on the implementation by States parties of United Nations instruments on human rights and the progress made in ensuring timely consideration of reports of the human rights treaty bodies;

17. *Reiterates its concern* about the large number of overdue reports on the implementation by States parties of certain United Nations instruments on human rights, and:

(*a*) Urges States parties to make every effort to meet their reporting obligations;

(*b*) Welcomes the efforts made by certain human rights treaty bodies to consider the situations of some States parties with overdue reports;

(*c*) Welcomes new initiatives by certain human rights treaty bodies actively to follow up concluding observations and comments with States parties, including through the appointment of one of their members as rapporteur for follow-up;

18. *Urges* each State party whose report has been examined by a human rights treaty body to translate, publish and make available in its territory the full text of the concluding observations and comments of the treaty body on its report and to provide adequate follow-up to those observations;

19. *Welcomes* the contribution to the work of the human rights treaty bodies made by the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies, and encourages the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies, the various organs of the Commission on Human Rights, including its special procedures, the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, the Office of the High Commissioner and the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies to continue to explore specific measures to intensify this cooperation among themselves and to improve communication and information flow so as to improve further the quality of their work, including by avoiding unnecessary duplication;

20. *Recognizes* the important role played by non-governmental organizations in all parts of the world in the effective implementation of all human rights instruments, and encourages the exchange of information between the human rights treaty bodies and such organizations;

21. *Recalls*, with regard to the election of the members of the human rights treaty bodies, the importance of giving consideration to equitable geographical distribution and gender balance of the membership and to the representation of the principal legal systems and of bearing in mind that the members shall be elected and shall serve in their personal capacity and shall be of high moral character, acknowledged impartiality and recognized competence in the field of human rights, and encourages States parties, individually and through meetings of States parties, to consider how better to give effect to these principles;

22. *Encourages* the efforts of the human rights treaty bodies to monitor more effectively the human rights of women, bearing in mind the workshops on gender integration, and reaffirms that it is the responsibility of all treaty bodies to integrate a gender perspective into their work;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session the reports of the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies on their periodic meetings, and to report to it at the same session on measures taken to implement the present resolution and obstacles to its implementation, on measures to encourage technical cooperation and on measures taken or planned to ensure financing and adequate staff and information resources for the effective operation of the treaty bodies;

24. *Decides* to consider this question on a priority basis at its fifty-ninth session under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

*77th plenary meeting*
*18 December 2002*

United Nations A/RES/57/203

General Assembly

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Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 109 (*b*)

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/57/556/Add.2 and Corr.1, 2 and 3)*]

### 57/203. Strengthening United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity

*The General Assembly*,

*Bearing in mind* that among the purposes of the United Nations are those of developing friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and taking other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace, as well as achieving international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

*Desirous* of achieving further progress in international cooperation to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Considering* that such international cooperation should be based on the principles embodied in international law, especially the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] the International Covenants on Human Rights[2] and other relevant instruments,

*Deeply convinced* that United Nations action in this field should be based not only on a profound understanding of the broad range of problems existing in all societies but also on full respect for the political, economic and social realities of each of them, in strict compliance with the purposes and principles of the Charter and for the basic purpose of promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms through international cooperation,

*Recalling* its previous resolutions in this regard,

*Reaffirming* the importance of ensuring the universality, objectivity and non-selectivity of the consideration of human rights issues, as affirmed in the Vienna

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[3]

*Affirming* the importance of the objectivity, independence and discretion of the special rapporteurs and representatives on thematic issues and on countries, as well as of the members of the working groups, in carrying out their mandates,

*Underlining* the obligation that Governments have to promote and protect human rights and to carry out the responsibilities that they have undertaken under international law, especially the Charter, as well as various international instruments in the field of human rights,

1. *Reiterates* that, by virtue of the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, all peoples have the right freely to determine, without external interference, their political status and to pursue their economic, social and cultural development, and that every State has the duty to respect that right within the provisions of the Charter, including respect for territorial integrity;

2. *Reaffirms* that it is a purpose of the United Nations and the task of all Member States, in cooperation with the Organization, to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and to remain vigilant with regard to violations of human rights wherever they occur;

3. *Calls upon* all Member States to base their activities for the promotion and protection of human rights, including the development of further international cooperation in this field, on the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[2] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[2] and other relevant international instruments, and to refrain from activities that are inconsistent with that international framework;

4. *Considers* that international cooperation in this field should make an effective and practical contribution to the urgent task of preventing mass and flagrant violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and to the strengthening of international peace and security;

5. *Reaffirms* that the promotion, protection and full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, as a legitimate concern of the world community, should be guided by the principles of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity and should not be used for political ends;

6. *Requests* all human rights bodies within the United Nations system, as well as the special rapporteurs and representatives, independent experts and working groups, to take duly into account the contents of the present resolution in carrying out their mandates;

7. *Expresses its conviction* that an unbiased and fair approach to human rights issues contributes to the promotion of international cooperation as well as to the effective promotion, protection and realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

[3] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

8. *Stresses*, in this context, the continuing need for impartial and objective information on the political, economic and social situations and events of all countries;

9. *Invites* Member States to consider adopting, as appropriate, within the framework of their respective legal systems and in accordance with their obligations under international law, especially the Charter, and international human rights instruments, the measures that they may deem appropriate to achieve further progress in international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

10. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to take duly into account the present resolution and to consider further proposals for the strengthening of United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity;

11. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[4] and requests the Secretary-General to invite Member States to present practical proposals and ideas that would contribute to the strengthening of United Nations action in the field of human rights, through the promotion of international cooperation based on the principles of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity, and to submit a comprehensive report on this question to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session;

12. *Decides* to consider this matter at its fifty-eighth session under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

*77th plenary meeting*
*18 December 2002*

[4] A/57/385.

# General Assembly

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**Fifty-seventh session**
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## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/57/556/Add.2 and Corr.1 to 3)*]

### 57/204. Human rights and cultural diversity

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[2] and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[2] as well as other pertinent human rights instruments,

*Recalling also* its resolutions 54/160 of 17 December 1999 and 55/91 of 4 December 2000, and recalling further its resolutions 54/113 of 10 December 1999 and 55/23 of 13 November 2000 on the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations,

*Noting* that numerous instruments within the United Nations system promote cultural diversity, as well as the conservation and development of culture, in particular the Declaration of the Principles of International Culture Cooperation proclaimed on 4 November 1966 by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its fourteenth session,[3]

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[4]

*Welcoming* the adoption of the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations by its resolution 56/6 of 9 November 2001,

*Welcoming also* the contribution of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held at Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 8 September 2001, to the promotion of respect for cultural diversity,

*Welcoming further* the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,[5] together with its

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[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[3] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Fourteenth Session, Paris, 1966, Resolutions*.

[4] A/57/311 and Add.1.

[5] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Thirty-first Session, Paris, 15 October–3 November 2001*, vol. 1: *Resolutions*, chap. V, resolution 25, annex I.

Action Plan,[6] adopted on 2 November 2001 by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirty-first session, in which member States invited the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned to cooperate with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the promotion of the principles set forth in the Declaration and its Action Plan with a view to enhancing the synergy of actions in favour of cultural diversity,

*Reaffirming* that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that the international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis, and that, while the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Recognizing* that cultural diversity and the pursuit of cultural development by all peoples and nations are a source of mutual enrichment for the cultural life of humankind,

*Taking into account* that a culture of peace actively fosters non-violence and respect for human rights and strengthens solidarity among peoples and nations and dialogue between cultures,

*Recognizing* that all cultures and civilizations share a common set of universal values,

*Recognizing also* that the promotion of the rights of indigenous people and their cultures and traditions will contribute to the respect for and observance of cultural diversity among all people and nations,

*Considering* that tolerance of cultural, ethnic, religious and linguistic diversities, as well as dialogue among and within civilizations, is essential for peace, understanding and friendship among individuals and people of different cultures and nations of the world, while manifestations of cultural prejudice, intolerance and xenophobia towards different cultures and religions generate hatred and violence among peoples and nations throughout the world,

*Recognizing* in each culture a dignity and value that deserve recognition, respect and preservation, and convinced that, in their rich variety and diversity, and in the reciprocal influences that they exert on one another, all cultures form part of the common heritage belonging to all humankind,

*Convinced* that the promotion of cultural pluralism and tolerance towards and dialogue among various cultures and civilizations would contribute to the efforts of all peoples and nations to enrich their cultures and traditions by engaging in a mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and intellectual, moral and material achievements,

1. *Affirms* the importance for all peoples and nations to hold, develop and preserve their cultural heritage and traditions in a national and international atmosphere of peace, tolerance and mutual respect;

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[6] Ibid., annex II.

2. *Welcomes* the adoption of the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000,[7] in which Member States consider, inter alia, that tolerance is one of the fundamental values essential to international relations in the twenty-first century and that it should include the active promotion of a culture of peace and dialogue among civilizations, with human beings respecting one another in all their diversity of belief, culture and language, neither fearing nor repressing differences within and between societies but cherishing them as a precious asset of humanity;

3. *Recognizes* the right of everyone to take part in cultural life and to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications;

4. *Affirms* that the international community should strive to respond to the challenges and opportunities posed by globalization in a manner that ensures respect for the cultural diversity of all;

5. *Expresses its determination* to prevent and mitigate cultural homogenization in the context of globalization, through increased intercultural exchange guided by the promotion and protection of cultural diversity;

6. *Affirms* that intercultural dialogue essentially enriches the common understanding of human rights and that the benefits to be derived from the encouragement and development of international contacts and cooperation in the cultural fields are important;

7. *Welcomes* the recognition at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance of the necessity of respecting and maximizing the benefits of diversity within and among all nations in working together to build a harmonious and productive future by putting into practice and promoting values and principles such as justice, equality and non-discrimination, democracy, fairness and friendship, tolerance and respect within and among communities and nations, in particular through public information and educational programmes to raise awareness and understanding of the benefits of cultural diversity, including programmes in which the public authorities work in partnership with international and non-governmental organizations and other sectors of civil society;

8. *Recognizes* that respect for cultural diversity and the cultural rights of all enhances cultural pluralism, contributing to a wider exchange of knowledge and understanding of cultural background, advancing the application and enjoyment of universally accepted human rights throughout the world and fostering stable, friendly relations among peoples and nations worldwide;

9. *Emphasizes* that the promotion of cultural pluralism and tolerance at the national, regional and international levels is important for enhancing respect for cultural rights and cultural diversity;

10. *Also emphasizes* that tolerance and respect for diversity facilitate the universal promotion and protection of human rights, including gender equality and the enjoyment of all human rights by all, and underlines the fact that tolerance and respect for cultural diversity and the universal promotion and protection of human rights are mutually supportive;

[7] See resolution 55/2.

11. *Urges* all actors on the international scene to build an international order based on inclusion, justice, equality and equity, human dignity, mutual understanding and promotion of and respect for cultural diversity and universal human rights, and to reject all doctrines of exclusion based on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

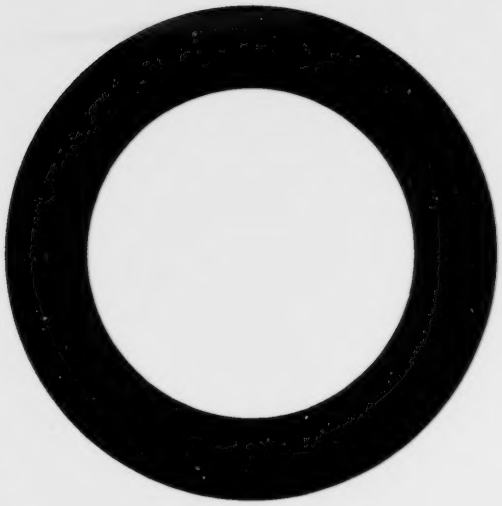
12. *Urges* States to ensure that their political and legal systems reflect the multicultural diversity within their societies and, where necessary, to improve democratic institutions so that they are more fully participatory and avoid marginalization and exclusion of, and discrimination against, specific sectors of society;

13. *Calls upon* States, international organizations and United Nations agencies, and invites civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to recognize and promote respect for cultural diversity for the purpose of advancing the objectives of peace, development and universally accepted human rights;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in the light of the present resolution, to prepare a report on human rights and cultural diversity, taking into account the views of Member States, relevant United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, as well as the considerations in the present resolution regarding the recognition and importance of cultural diversity among all peoples and nations in the world, and to submit the report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session;

15. *Decides* to continue consideration of this question at its fifty-eighth session under the sub-item entitled "Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

*77th plenary meeting*
*18 December 2002*



# General Assembly

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**Fifty-seventh session**
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## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/57/556/Add.2 and Corr.1–3)*]

### 57/205. Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights

*The General Assembly*,

*Guided* by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and expressing in particular the need to achieve international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction,

*Recalling* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] as well as the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[2]

*Recalling also* the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[3] and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[3]

*Recalling further* the Declaration on the Right to Development adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/128 of 4 December 1986,

*Recalling* the United Nations Millennium Declaration[4] and the outcome documents of the twenty-third[5] and twenty-fourth[6] special sessions of the General Assembly, held, respectively, in New York from 5 to 10 June 2000 and Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

*Recalling also* its resolutions 56/156 and 56/165 of 19 December 2001,

*Recalling further* Commission on Human Rights resolution 2002/28 of 22 April 2002 on globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of human rights,[7]

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[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[3] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[4] See resolution 55/2.

[5] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[6] Resolution S-24/2, annex.

[7] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2002, Supplement No. 3* (E/2002/23), chap. II, sect. A.

*Recognizing* that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that the international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis,

*Realizing* that globalization affects all countries differently and makes them more exposed to external developments, positive as well as negative, including in the field of human rights,

*Realizing also* that globalization is not merely an economic process but that it also has social, political, environmental, cultural and legal dimensions which have an impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights,

*Realizing further* the need to undertake a thorough, independent and comprehensive assessment of the social, environmental and cultural impact of globalization on societies,

*Recognizing* in each culture a dignity and value that deserve recognition, respect and preservation, and convinced that, in their rich variety and diversity and in the reciprocal influences that they exert on one another, all cultures form part of the common heritage belonging to all humankind, and aware that the risk of a global monoculture poses more of a threat if the developing world remains poor and marginalized,

*Recognizing also* that multilateral mechanisms have a unique role to play in meeting the challenges and opportunities presented by globalization,

*Expressing concern* at the negative impact of international financial turbulence on social and economic development and on the full enjoyment of all human rights,

*Deeply concerned* that the widening gap between the developed and the developing countries, and within countries, has contributed, inter alia, to deepening poverty and has adversely affected the full enjoyment of all human rights, in particular in developing countries,

*Noting* that human beings strive for a world that is respectful of human rights and cultural diversity and that, in this regard, they work to ensure that all activities, including those affected by globalization, are consistent with those aims,

1. *Recognizes* that, while globalization, by its impact on, inter alia, the role of the State, may affect human rights, the promotion and protection of all human rights is first and foremost the responsibility of the State;

2. *Reaffirms* that narrowing the gap between rich and poor, both within and between countries, is an explicit goal at the national and international levels, as part of the effort to create an enabling environment for the full enjoyment of all human rights;

3. *Reaffirms also* the commitment to creating an environment at both the national and the global level that is conducive to development and to the elimination of poverty through, inter alia, good governance within each country and at the international level, transparency in the financial, monetary and trading systems and commitment to an open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial system;

4. *Recognizes* that, while globalization offers great opportunities, its benefits are very unevenly shared and its costs unevenly distributed, an aspect of the process that affects the full enjoyment of all human rights, in particular in developing countries;

5. *Welcomes* the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of human rights,[8] which focuses on the liberalization of agricultural trade and its impact on the realization of the right to development, including the right to food, and takes note of the conclusions and recommendations contained therein;

6. *Calls upon* Member States, relevant United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations and civil society to promote equitable and environmentally sustainable economic growth for managing globalization, so that poverty is systematically reduced and the international development targets are achieved;

7. *Recognizes* that only through broad and sustained efforts, including policies and measures at the global level to create a shared future based upon our common humanity in all its diversity, can globalization be made fully inclusive and equitable and have a human face, thus contributing to the full enjoyment of all human rights;

8. *Underlines* the urgent need to establish an equitable, transparent and democratic international system in which poor people and countries have a more effective voice;

9. *Affirms* that globalization is a complex process of structural transformation, with numerous interdisciplinary aspects, which has an impact on the enjoyment of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development;

10. *Affirms also* that the international community should strive to respond to the challenges and opportunities posed by globalization in a manner that ensures respect for the cultural diversity of all;

11. *Underlines*, therefore, the need to continue to analyse the consequences of globalization for the full enjoyment of all human rights;

12. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[9] and requests the Secretary-General to seek further the views of Member States and relevant United Nations agencies and to submit a substantive report on this subject to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

*77th plenary meeting*
*18 December 2002*

[8] E/CN.4/2002/54.

[9] A/57/205 and Add.1.

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## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/57/556/Add.2 and Corr.1–3)*]

### 57/206. Human rights education

*The General Assembly*,

*Taking into account* Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/61 of 25 April 2001 regarding the importance of human rights education as a priority in education policies, [1]

*Considering* Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/38 of 26 July 2001 on human rights education,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 56/147 of 19 December 2001 on human rights education,

*Convinced* that human rights education and information contribute to the concept of development consistent with the dignity of women and men of all ages, which takes into account particularly vulnerable segments of society of all ages, such as children, youth, older persons, indigenous people, minorities, rural and urban poor, migrant workers, refugees, persons with the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and disabled persons,

*Considering* the importance of human rights education,

*Convinced* that human rights education is a key to development,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the mid-term global evaluation of the progress made towards the achievement of the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995–2004, contained in the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, [2]

*Taking into account* the recommendations resulting from the mid-term global evaluation,

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[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 3* (E/2001/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[2] See A/55/360.

1. *Invites* all Governments to reaffirm their commitments and obligations to develop national strategies for human rights education which are comprehensive, participatory and effective and which can be embodied in a national plan of action for human rights education as part of their national development plans;

2. *Invites* the United Nations, intergovernmental organizations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other relevant intergovernmental organizations to adopt a system-wide approach to the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995–2004;

3. *Invites* relevant regional human rights organizations, agencies and networks to develop human rights education programmes and human rights training programmes and strategies for wider distribution of material on human rights education in all possible languages;

4. *Recognizes* the role that non-governmental organizations play in developing and implementing strategies to assist Governments to integrate human rights education into all levels of education for children, youth and adults;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

*77th plenary meeting*
*18 December 2002*

# General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 February 2003

**Fifty-seventh session**
Agenda item 109 (*b*)

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/57/556/Add.2 and Corr.1–3)*]

### 57/207. Missing persons

*The General Assembly*,

*Guided* by the purposes, principles and provisions of the Charter of the United Nations,

*Guided also* by the principles and norms of international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949[1] and the Additional Protocols thereto, of 1977,[2] as well as international standards of human rights, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[3] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[4] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[4] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[5] and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[6]

*Taking note* of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2002/60 adopted unanimously on 25 April 2002,[7]

*Noting with deep concern* that armed conflicts are continuing in various parts of the world, often resulting in serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law,

*Recognizing* that great technological progress has been achieved in the field of DNA forensic sciences with regard to missing persons, such as the work done by the International Commission on Missing Persons, based in Sarajevo, which could significantly assist efforts to identify missing persons from other conflict areas in the world,

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

[2] Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

[3] Resolution 217 A (III).

[4] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[5] Resolution 44/25, annex.

[6] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[7] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2002, Supplement No. 3* (E/2002/23), chap. II, sect. A.

*Noting in this regard* that the issue of persons reported missing in connection with international armed conflicts, in particular those who are victims of serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law, continues to have a negative impact on efforts to put an end to those conflicts,

1. *Urges* States strictly to observe and respect and ensure respect for the rules of international humanitarian law, as set out in the Geneva Conventions of 1949[1] and the Additional Protocols thereto, of 1977;[2]

2. *Reaffirms* the right of families to know the fate of their relatives reported missing in connection with armed conflicts;

3. *Also reaffirms* that each party to an armed conflict, as soon as circumstances permit and, at the latest, from the end of active hostilities, shall search for the persons who have been reported missing by an adverse party;

4. *Calls upon* States which are parties to an armed conflict to take immediate steps to determine the identity and fate of persons reported missing in connection with the armed conflict;

5. *Requests* States to pay the utmost attention to cases of children reported missing in connection with armed conflicts and to take appropriate measures to search for and identify those children;

6. *Invites* States which are parties to an armed conflict to cooperate fully with the International Committee of the Red Cross in establishing the fate of missing persons and to adopt a comprehensive approach to this issue, including all practical and coordination mechanisms that may be necessary, based on humanitarian considerations only;

7. *Urges* States and encourages intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to take all necessary measures at the national, regional and international levels to address the problem of persons reported missing in connection with armed conflicts and to provide appropriate assistance as requested by the States concerned;

8. *Invites* all relevant human rights mechanisms and procedures, as appropriate, to address the problem of persons reported missing in connection with armed conflicts in their forthcoming reports to the General Assembly;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, the competent United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and international humanitarian organizations;

10. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter at its fifty-ninth session.

*77th plenary meeting*
*18 December 2002*

United Nations A/RES/57/208

General Assembly

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Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 109 (*b*)

# Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/57/556/Add.2 and Corr.1–3)*]

## 57/208. Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* that all States have pledged themselves, under the Charter of the United Nations, to promote and encourage universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

*Reaffirming* that discrimination against human beings on the grounds of religion or belief constitutes an affront to human dignity and a disavowal of the principles of the Charter,

*Recalling* article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[2] and paragraph 4 of the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[3]

*Reaffirming* its resolution 36/55 of 25 November 1981, by which it proclaimed the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination based on Religion or Belief,

*Noting* the provisions of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 8 September 2001,[4] aimed at combating religious intolerance,

*Emphasizing* that the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief is far-reaching and profound and that it encompasses freedom of thought on all matters, personal conviction and the commitment to religion or belief, whether manifested individually or in community with others, and in public or private,

*Reaffirming* the call of the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, for all Governments to take all appropriate measures in compliance with their international obligations and with due regard to their

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[3] See resolution 55/2.

[4] See A/CONF.189/12 and Corr.1, chap. I.

respective legal systems to counter intolerance and related violence based on religion or belief, including practices of discrimination against women and the desecration of religious sites, recognizing that every individual has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, expression and religion,[5]

*Underlining* the important role of education in the promotion of tolerance and elimination of discrimination based on religion or belief,

*Alarmed* that serious instances of intolerance and discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief, including acts of violence, intimidation and coercion motivated by religious intolerance, are on the increase in many parts of the world and threaten the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Deeply concerned* that, as reported by the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on freedom of religion or belief, the rights violated on religious grounds include the right to life, the right to physical integrity and to liberty and security of person, the right to freedom of expression, the right not to be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and the right not to be arbitrarily arrested or detained,

*Believing* that intensified efforts are therefore required to promote and protect the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief and to eliminate all forms of hatred, intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief, as also emphasized at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance,

1. *Reaffirms* that freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief is a human right derived from the inherent dignity of the human person and guaranteed to all without discrimination;

2. *Urges* States to ensure that their constitutional and legal systems provide effective guarantees of freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief, including the provision of effective remedies in cases where the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief is violated;

3. *Also urges* States to ensure, in particular, that no one within their jurisdiction is, because of their religion or belief, deprived of the right to life or the right to liberty and security of person or subjected to torture or arbitrary arrest or detention and to bring to justice all perpetrators of violations of these rights;

4. *Further urges* States, in conformity with international standards of human rights, to take all necessary action to combat hatred, intolerance and acts of violence, intimidation and coercion motivated by intolerance based on religion or belief, with particular regard to persons belonging to religious minorities;

5. *Urges* States to devote particular attention to all practices motivated by religion or belief that lead, directly or indirectly, to violations of the human rights of women and to discrimination against women;

6. *Emphasizes* that, as underlined by the Human Rights Committee, restrictions on the freedom to manifest religion or belief are permitted only if those limitations that are prescribed by law are necessary to protect public safety, order, health or morals, or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others, and are applied in a manner that does not vitiate the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion;

[5] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III, sect. II, para. 22.

7. *Urges* States to ensure that, in the course of their official duties, members of law enforcement bodies and the military, civil servants, educators and other public officials respect different religions and beliefs and do not discriminate against persons professing other religions or beliefs and that any necessary and appropriate education or training is provided;

8. *Calls upon* all States to recognize, as provided in the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,[6] the right of all persons to worship or assemble in connection with a religion or belief and to establish and maintain places for those purposes;

9. *Expresses its grave concern* at all attacks upon religious places, sites and shrines, and calls upon all States, in accordance with their national legislation and in conformity with international human rights standards, to exert their utmost efforts to ensure that such places, sites and shrines are fully respected and protected and to take additional measures in cases where they are vulnerable to desecration or destruction;

10. *Recognizes* that legislation alone is not enough to prevent violations of human rights, including the right to freedom of religion or belief, and that the exercise of tolerance and non-discrimination by persons and groups is necessary for the full realization of the aims of the Declaration, and in this regard, invites States, religious bodies and civil society to undertake dialogue at all levels to promote greater tolerance, respect and understanding of freedom of religion or belief and to encourage and promote, through the educational system and by other means, understanding, tolerance and respect in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief;

11. *Takes note with appreciation* of the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on freedom of religion or belief[7] and encourages his continued efforts to examine incidents and governmental actions in all parts of the world that are incompatible with the provisions of the Declaration and to recommend remedial measures as appropriate;

12. *Calls upon* all States to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur and to give serious consideration to his requests to visit their countries so as to enable him to fulfil his mandate fully and effectively;

13. *Welcomes* the initiatives of Governments and non-governmental organizations to collaborate with the Special Rapporteur, and in this regard invites Governments to give consideration to the final document adopted at the International Consultative Conference on School Education in relation to Freedom of Religion and Belief, Tolerance and Non-discrimination, held in Madrid from 23 to 25 November 2001;

14. *Urges* States to make all appropriate efforts to encourage those engaged in teaching to cultivate respect for all religions or beliefs, thereby promoting mutual understanding and tolerance;

15. *Encourages* Governments, when seeking the assistance of the United Nations Programme of Advisory Services and Technical Assistance in the Field of Human Rights, to consider, where appropriate, including requests for assistance in

[6] See resolution 36/55.

[7] See A/57/274.

the field of the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief;

16. *Welcomes and encourages* the continuing efforts of non-governmental organizations and religious bodies and groups to promote the implementation and dissemination of the Declaration, and also encourages their work in relation to promoting freedom of religion or belief and in highlighting cases of religious intolerance, discrimination and persecution;

17. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to continue its consideration of measures to implement the Declaration;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the Special Rapporteur receives the necessary resources to enable him to discharge his mandate;

19. *Decides* to consider the question of the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance at its fifty-eighth session under the item entitled "Human rights questions", and requests the Special Rapporteur to submit an interim report to the General Assembly on the item.

*77th plenary meeting*
*18 December 2002*

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## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/57/556/Add.2 and Corr.1 to 3)*]

### 57/209. Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its resolution 53/144 of 9 December 1998, by which it adopted by consensus the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, annexed to that resolution,

*Reiterating* the importance of the Declaration and stressing the importance of its wide dissemination,

*Noting with deep concern* that, in many countries, persons and organizations engaged in promoting and defending human rights and fundamental freedoms are facing threats, harassment and insecurity as a result of those activities,

*Gravely concerned* by the human rights violations committed against persons engaged in promoting and defending human rights and fundamental freedoms around the world,

*Recalling* that human rights defenders are entitled to equal protection of the law, and deeply concerned about any abuse of civil or criminal proceedings against them because of their activities for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Concerned* by the considerable number of communications received by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on human rights defenders that, together with the reports submitted by some of the special procedure mechanisms, indicate the serious nature of the risks faced by human rights defenders and the particular consequences for women human rights defenders,

*Noting with deep concern* that, in a number of countries in all regions of the world, impunity for threats, attacks and acts of intimidation against human rights defenders persists and that this has a negative impact on the work and safety of human rights defenders,

*Emphasizing* the important role that individuals, non-governmental organizations and groups play in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including in combating impunity,

*Recalling* that, under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[1] certain rights are recognized as non-derogable, and emphasizing that derogation from other rights and freedoms can only take place under strict observance of the agreed conditions and procedures identified under article 4 of the Covenant,

*Welcoming* the cooperation between the Special Representative and other special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights,

*Welcoming also* regional initiatives for the promotion and protection of human rights and the cooperation between international and regional mechanisms for the protection of human rights defenders, and encouraging further development in this regard,

*Recalling* that the primary responsibility for promoting and protecting human rights rests with the State, and noting with deep concern that the activities of some non-State actors pose a major threat to the security of human rights defenders,

*Emphasizing* the need for strong and effective measures for the protection of human rights defenders,

1. *Calls upon* all States to promote and give full effect to the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms;

2. *Welcomes* the reports of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on human rights defenders[2] and her contribution to the effective promotion of the Declaration and improvement of the protection of human rights defenders worldwide;

3. *Condemns* all human rights violations committed against persons engaged in promoting and defending human rights and fundamental freedoms around the world, and urges States to take all appropriate action, consistent with the Declaration and all other relevant human rights instruments, to eliminate such human rights violations;

4. *Calls upon* all States to take all necessary measures to ensure the protection of human rights defenders;

5. *Emphasizes* the importance of combating impunity, and in this regard urges States to take appropriate measures to address the question of impunity for threats, attacks and acts of intimidation against human rights defenders;

6. *Urges* all Governments to cooperate with and assist the Special Representative in the performance of her tasks and to furnish all information in the fulfilment of her mandate upon request;

7. *Encourages* Governments to give serious consideration to inviting the Special Representative to visit their countries so as to enable her to fulfil her mandate even more effectively;

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[1] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[2] E/CN.4/2001/94, A/56/341, E/CN.4/2002/106 and Add.1 and 2 and A/57/182.

8. *Urges* those Governments that have not yet responded to the communications transmitted to them by the Special Representative to answer without further delay;

9. *Invites* Governments to consider translating the Declaration into national languages, and encourages them to disseminate it widely;

10. *Requests* all concerned United Nations agencies and organizations within their mandates to provide all possible assistance and support to the Special Representative in the implementation of her programme of activities;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all necessary human and financial resources for the effective fulfilment of the mandate of the Special Representative;

12. *Decides* to consider this question at its fifty-eighth session, under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

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*18 December 2002*

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## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/57/556/Add.2 and Corr.1–3)*]

### 57/210. Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its resolution 32/127 of 16 December 1977 and its subsequent resolutions concerning regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights,

*Recalling also* Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/51 of 9 March 1993[1] and its subsequent resolutions in this regard,

*Bearing in mind* the relevant resolutions of the Commission concerning advisory services and technical cooperation in the field of human rights, including its most recent on that subject, resolution 2002/87 of 26 April 2002,[2]

*Bearing in mind also* the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[3] which reiterates, inter alia, the need to consider the possibility of establishing regional and subregional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights where they do not already exist,

*Recalling* that the World Conference recommended that more resources should be made available for the strengthening of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights under the programme of technical cooperation in the field of human rights of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,

*Reaffirming* that regional arrangements play an important role in promoting and protecting human rights and should reinforce universal human rights standards, as contained in international human rights instruments, and their protection,

*Noting* the progress achieved thus far in the promotion and protection of human rights at the regional level under the auspices of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the regional intergovernmental organizations,

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[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda (E/1993/23 and Corr.2, 4 and 5), chap. II, sect. A.

[2] Ibid., *2002, Supplement No. 3* (E/2002/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[3] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

*Considering* that cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements in the field of human rights continues to be both substantive and supportive and that possibilities exist for increased cooperation,

*Welcoming* the fact that the Office of the High Commissioner has been systematically pursuing a regional and subregional approach through a variety of complementary means and methods in order to maximize the impact of the activities of the United Nations at the national level,

1. *Takes notes with satisfaction* of the report of the Secretary-General;[4]

2. *Welcomes* the continuing cooperation and assistance of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the further strengthening of the existing regional arrangements and regional machinery for the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular through technical cooperation which is aimed at national capacity-building, public information and education, with a view to exchanging information and experience in the field of human rights;

3. *Also welcomes*, in that respect, the close cooperation of the Office of the High Commissioner in the organization of regional and subregional training courses and workshops in the field of human rights, high-level governmental expert meetings and regional conferences of national human rights institutions, aimed at creating greater understanding in the regions of issues concerning the promotion and protection of human rights, improving procedures and examining the various systems for the promotion and protection of universally accepted human rights standards and identifying obstacles to ratification of the principal international human rights treaties and strategies to overcome them;

4. *Recognizes*, therefore, that progress in promoting and protecting all human rights depends primarily on efforts made at the national and local levels, and that the regional approach should imply intensive cooperation and coordination with all partners involved, while bearing in mind the importance of international cooperation;

5. *Stresses* the importance of the programme of technical cooperation in the field of human rights, renews its appeal to all Governments to consider making use of the possibilities offered by the United Nations under this programme of organizing information or training courses at the national level for government personnel on the application of international human rights standards and the experience of relevant international bodies, and notes with satisfaction, in that respect, the establishment of technical cooperation projects with Governments of all regions;

6. *Welcomes* the growing exchanges between the United Nations and the bodies created by the United Nations in accordance with the treaties dealing with human rights, on the one hand, and regional intergovernmental organizations, such as the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, and other regional institutions on the other;

7. *Also welcomes* the appointment by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights of four human rights personalities to serve as regional advisers, who will play a significant role in the promotion of human rights

[4] A/57/283.

and human rights advocacy through the design of strategies and the development of partnerships for human rights, facilitate coordination of human rights technical cooperation in the region and assist regional cooperation at large, for example, among national institutions, parliamentary human rights bodies, bar associations and non-governmental organizations;

8. *Further welcomes* the placement by the Office of the High Commissioner of regional representatives in subregions and in regional commissions to allow for closer working relations with States, international and regional organizations as well as with non-governmental organizations;

9. *Recalls* in this regard the positive experience of the regional and subregional presence in southern, central, eastern and western Africa;

10. *Notes with interest* the results of the African regional dialogues held at Geneva and Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 5 to 7 November 2001 and 24 to 26 May 2002, respectively, in providing guidance to Governments, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations as well as better links with the African Union and other subregional organizations, and in this respect notes with appreciation the Constitutive Act of the African Union, in particular article 4, in which it is stated that the Union shall function in accordance with several principles, inter alia, the promotion of gender equality and the respect for democratic principles, human rights, the rule of law and good governance;

11. *Also notes with interest* the increased, valuable sharing of concrete national experiences, at the ninth and tenth Workshops on Regional Cooperation for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Asian and Pacific Region held in Bangkok and Beirut from 28 February to 2 March 2001 and from 4 to 6 March, respectively, regarding the implementation of the Framework of Regional Technical Cooperation for the Asia-Pacific Region, which contributes to the enhancement of the promotion and protection of human rights in the region;

12. *Takes note with interest* of the Quito Framework for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights, which serves as a basis for the regional strategy of the Office of the High Commissioner, aimed at strengthening national capacities for the promotion of human rights in Latin America and the Caribbean, and in this regard welcomes the meeting on the enforcement of the system of treaty bodies held in Quito in August 2002;

13. *Welcomes* the continued cooperation between the Office of the High Commissioner and regional organizations in Europe and Central Asia, in particular the development, as a priority, of a regional approach to preventing trafficking in persons;

14. *Notes with appreciation* the holding of the International Conference on Human Rights and Democratization in Dubrovnik, Croatia, from 8 to 10 October 2001, co-organized by the Office of the High Commissioner, the Government of Croatia and the European Commission, which provided the opportunity to review developments in the field of human rights in the region;

15. *Invites* States in areas in which regional arrangements in the field of human rights do not yet exist to consider concluding agreements, with a view to establishing, within their respective regions, suitable regional machinery for the promotion and protection of human rights;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as foreseen in programme 19, Human rights, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002–2005,[5] to continue to strengthen exchanges between the United Nations and regional intergovernmental organizations dealing with human rights and to make available adequate resources from within the regular budget of technical cooperation to the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner to promote regional arrangements;

17. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to pay special attention to the most appropriate ways of assisting countries of the various regions, at their request, under the programme of technical cooperation and to make, where necessary, relevant recommendations;

18. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in the report he will submit to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-ninth session, to provide information on progress made since the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action[3] on reinforcing the exchange of information and extending collaboration between the organs of the United Nations dealing with human rights and regional organizations in the field of the promotion and protection of human rights;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a report on the state of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights, to formulate concrete proposals and recommendations on ways and means to strengthen cooperation between United Nations and regional arrangements in the field of human rights and to include therein the results of action taken in pursuance of the present resolution;

20. *Decides* to consider this question further at its fifty-ninth session.

*77th plenary meeting*
*18 December 2002*

[5] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/55/6/Rev.1).

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## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/57/556/Add.2 and Corr.1 to 3)*]

### 57/211. Human rights and extreme poverty

*The General Assembly*,

*Reaffirming* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[2] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[2] and other human rights instruments adopted by the United Nations,

*Considering* the relevant provisions of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[3] and of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, adopted by the World Summit on 12 March 1995,[4] and the outcome document of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", adopted at Geneva on 1 July 2000,[5] and the recognition of the contributions of the outcomes of recent United Nations conferences, special sessions and summits, such as the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002,[6] and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002,[7]

*Welcoming* the decision of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to establish a world solidarity fund to eradicate poverty and promote social and human development, as defined in paragraph 7 (*b*) of its Plan of Implementation,[8]

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[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[3] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[4] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[5] Resolution S-24/2, annex.

[6] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[7] See *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and Corr.1), chap. I.

[8] Ibid., chap. I, resolution 2, para. 7 (*b*).

*Recalling* the United Nations Millennium Declaration[9] and the development goals contained therein, including the commitment to halve by 2015 the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,

*Recalling also* its resolutions 47/196 of 22 December 1992, by which it declared 17 October the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, 48/183 of 21 December 1993, by which it proclaimed 1996 the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty, 50/107 of 20 December 1995, by which it proclaimed the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006), and 56/207 of 21 December 2001 on the implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006), including the proposal to establish a world solidarity fund for poverty eradication,

*Recalling further* its resolution 55/106 of 4 December 2000 and its previous resolutions on human rights and extreme poverty,

*Recalling* its resolution 52/134 of 12 December 1997, in which it recognized that the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights was essential for the understanding, promotion and protection of all human rights,

*Recalling also* resolution 56/207, in which it expressed its deep concern that the number of people living in extreme poverty in many countries continued to increase, with women and children constituting the majority and the most affected group, in particular in African countries and the least developed countries,

*Bearing in mind* Commission on Human Rights resolutions 2000/12 of 17 April 2000,[10] 2001/31 of 23 April 2001[11] and 2002/30 of 22 April 2002,[12] as well as resolution 1996/23 of 29 August 1996[13] of the Subcommission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,[14] and resolutions 2001/8 of 15 August 2001[15] and 2002/13 of 14 August 2002[16] of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights,

*Recalling* its resolution 47/134 of 18 December 1992, in which it reaffirmed that extreme poverty and exclusion from society constituted a violation of human dignity and stressed the need for a complete and in-depth study of extreme poverty, based on the active and informed participation of the people living in poverty,

*Recognizing* that the eradication of extreme poverty is a major challenge within the process of globalization and requires coordinated and continued policies through decisive national action and international cooperation,

*Reaffirming* that, since the existence of widespread extreme poverty inhibits the full and effective enjoyment of human rights and might, in some situations,

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[9] See resolution 55/2.

[10] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2000, Supplement No. 3* and corrigendum (E/2000/23 and Corr. 1), chap. II, sect. A.

[11] Ibid., *2001, Supplement No. 3* (E/2001/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[12] Ibid., *2002, Supplement No. 3* (E/2002/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[13] See E/CN.4/1997/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1996/41, chap. II, sect. A.

[14] Subsequently renamed the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (see Economic and Social Council decision 1999/256).

[15] See E/CN.4/2002/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/2001/40, chap. II, sect. A.

[16] See E/CN.4/2003/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/2002/46, chap. II, sect. A.

constitute a threat to the right to life, its immediate alleviation and eventual eradication must remain a high priority for the international community,

*Considering* that democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing,

*Noting with interest* the reports submitted to the General Assembly by the Secretary-General[17] and to the Commission on Human Rights by the independent expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty[18] and the recommendations contained therein,

*Also noting with interest* the appointment of experts by the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, in the context of the fight against extreme poverty,[19]

1. *Reaffirms* that extreme poverty and exclusion from society constitute a violation of human dignity and that urgent national and international action is therefore required to eliminate them;

2. *Also reaffirms* that it is essential for States to foster participation by the poorest people in the decision-making process in the societies in which they live, in the promotion of human rights and in efforts to combat extreme poverty, and that it is essential for people living in poverty and vulnerable groups to be empowered to organize themselves and to participate in all aspects of political, economic and social life, in particular the planning and implementation of policies that affect them, thus enabling them to become genuine partners in development;

3. *Emphasizes* that extreme poverty is a major issue to be addressed by Governments, civil society and the United Nations system, including international financial institutions, and in this context reaffirms that political commitment is a prerequisite for the eradication of poverty;

4. *Recognizes* that surmounting extreme poverty constitutes an essential means to the full enjoyment of political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights, and reaffirms the interrelationship among these goals;

5. *Reaffirms* that the existence of widespread absolute poverty inhibits the full and effective enjoyment of human rights and renders democracy and popular participation fragile;

6. *Recognizes* the need to promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, in order to address the most pressing social needs of people living in poverty, including through the design and development of appropriate mechanisms to strengthen and consolidate democratic institutions and governance;

7. *Reaffirms* the commitments to the achievement of the development and poverty eradication goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[9] and in the outcome documents of relevant major United Nations conferences, summits and special sessions;

8. *Invites* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, within the framework of the implementation of the United Nations Decade for the

[17] A/57/369.

[18] E/CN.4/2002/55.

[19] See Commission on Human Rights resolution 2002/30, sixteenth preambular paragraph, and resolution 2002/13 of the Subcommission on Human Rights.

Eradication of Poverty, to continue to give appropriate attention to the question of human rights and extreme poverty;

9. *Notes with appreciation* the specific actions taken by the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to mitigate the effects of extreme poverty on children, and the efforts of the United Nations Development Programme to give priority to the search for some means of alleviating poverty within the framework of the relevant resolutions, and urges them to continue this work;

10. *Calls upon* States, United Nations bodies, in particular the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Development Programme, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to continue to give appropriate attention to the links between human rights and extreme poverty;

11. *Decides* to consider this question further at its fifty-ninth session, under the sub-item entitled "Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

*77th plenary meeting*
*18 December 2002*

# General Assembly

Distr.: General
28 February 2003

**Fifty-seventh session**
Agenda item 109 (*b*)

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/57/556/Add.2 and Corr.1–3)*]

### 57/212. United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995–2004

*The General Assembly*,

*Guided* by the fundamental and universal principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1]

*Reaffirming* article 26 of the Declaration, in which it is stated that "education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms", and recalling the provisions of other relevant international human rights instruments that reflect the aims of the article,

*Recalling* the high importance attached to human rights education by the World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993,

*Recalling also* the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights concerning the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995–2004,

*Believing* that human rights education constitutes an important vehicle for the elimination of gender-based discrimination and for ensuring equal opportunities through the promotion and protection of the human rights of women,

*Convinced* that every woman, man and child, in order to realize their full human potential, must be made aware of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Convinced also* that human rights education should involve more than the provision of information and should constitute a comprehensive, lifelong process by which people at all levels of development and in all societies learn respect for the dignity of others and the means and methods of ensuring that respect in all societies,

*Recognizing* that human rights education is essential to the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms and that carefully designed training, dissemination and information programmes can have a catalytic effect on national, regional and international initiatives to promote and protect human rights and prevent human rights violations,

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

*Convinced* that human rights education contributes to a holistic concept of development consistent with the dignity of women and men of all ages, which takes into account particularly vulnerable segments of society, such as children, young persons, older persons, indigenous people, minorities, the rural and urban poor, migrant workers, refugees, persons with the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and disabled persons,

*Affirming* that human rights education is a key to changing attitudes and behaviour based on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and to promoting tolerance and respect for diversity in societies and that such education is a determining factor in the promotion, dissemination and protection of the democratic values of justice and equity, which are essential to prevent and combat the spread of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, as was recognized at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 8 September 2001,[2]

*Welcoming* the holding of the International Consultative Conference on School Education in Relation to Freedom of Religion and Belief, Tolerance and Non-discrimination in Madrid from 23 to 25 November 2001,

*Welcoming also* the efforts to promote human rights education made by educators and non-governmental organizations in all parts of the world, as well as by intergovernmental organizations, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Development Programme,

*Recognizing* the outcomes of the regional conferences on human rights education organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, held in Turku, Finland, in 1997, in Dakar, Senegal, in 1998, in Pune, India, in 1999, in Rabat, Morocco, in 1999, and in Mexico City, Mexico, in 2001,

*Recognizing also* the invaluable and creative role that non-governmental and community-based organizations play in the promotion and protection of human rights by disseminating public information and engaging in human rights education, especially at the grass-roots level and in remote and rural communities,

*Aware* of the potential role of the private sector in implementing at all levels of society the Plan of Action for the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995–2004,[3] and the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights through financial support for governmental and non-governmental activities as well as their own creative initiatives,

*Convinced* that the effectiveness of existing human rights education and public information activities would be enhanced by better coordination and cooperation at the national, regional and international levels,

*Recalling* that it is within the responsibility of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to coordinate relevant United Nations education and public information programmes in the field of human rights,

*Noting with appreciation* the efforts undertaken thus far by the Office of the High Commissioner to increase information-sharing in the area of human rights

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[2] A/CONF.189/12 and Corr.1.

[3] A/51/506/Add.1, appendix.

human rights education through the development of a database and resource collection on human rights education and to disseminate human rights information through its web site,[4] its publications and its external relations programmes,

*Welcoming* the initiative of the Office of the High Commissioner to develop further the project entitled "Assisting Communities Together", launched in 1998, supported by voluntary funds and designed to provide small grants to grass-roots and local organizations carrying out practical human rights activities,

*Welcoming also* other United Nations public information activities in the field of human rights, including the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights and the implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights,[5] the project of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization entitled "Towards a culture of peace", and the Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum,[6] which, inter alia, reconfirmed the mandated role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in coordinating "Education for All" partners and maintaining their collective momentum within the process of securing quality basic education,

*Recognizing* the value of information and communications technologies in human rights education to promote dialogue and understanding of human rights, and in that context welcoming, inter alia, the CyberSchoolBus[7] and the United Nations Children's Fund "Voices of Youth"[8] initiatives,

*Recalling* the mid-term global evaluation of progress made towards the achievement of the objectives of the Decade undertaken by the Office of the High Commissioner, in cooperation with all other principal actors in the Decade, which was presented in the relevant report of the High Commissioner to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session,[9]

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995–2004,[10] and public information activities in the field of human rights;

2. *Urges* all Governments to promote the development of comprehensive, participatory and sustainable national strategies for human rights education and to establish and strengthen, as a priority in education policies, knowledge of human rights, both in the theoretical dimension and practical application;

3. *Welcomes* the steps taken by Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to implement the Plan of Action for the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995–2004,[3] and to develop public information activities in the field of human rights, as indicated in the report of the High Commissioner;

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[4] www.unhchr.ch

[5] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[6] See the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, Senegal, 26–28 April 2000* (Paris, 2000).

[7] See www.un.org/Pubs/CyberSchoolBus/humanrights.

[8] See www.unicef.org/voy.

[9] A/55/360.

[10] A/57/323.

4. *Urges* all Governments to contribute further to the implementation of the Plan of Action, in particular by:

(*a*) Encouraging the establishment, in accordance with national conditions, of broadly representative national committees for human rights education responsible for the development of comprehensive, effective and sustainable national plans of action for human rights education and information, taking into consideration the recommendations of the mid-term global evaluation of the Decade and the guidelines for national plans of action for human rights education developed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;[11]

(*b*) Encouraging, supporting and involving national and local non-governmental and community-based organizations in the implementation of their national plans of action;

(*c*) Initiating and developing cultural and educational programmes aimed at countering racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and supporting and implementing public information campaigns and specific training programmes in the field of human rights, as emphasized at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance;[2]

5. *Encourages* Governments to consider, within their national plans of action for human rights education:

(*a*) The establishment of public access human rights resource and training centres to carry out research, including on child and gender-sensitive training of trainers;

(*b*) The preparation, collection, translation and dissemination of human rights education and training materials;

(*c*) The organization of courses, conferences, workshops and public information campaigns and assistance in the implementation of internationally sponsored technical cooperation projects for human rights education and public information;

6. *Encourages* States, where such national public access human rights resource and training centres exist, to strengthen their capacity to support human rights education and public information programmes at the international, regional, national and local levels;

7. *Calls upon* Governments, in accordance with national conditions, to accord priority to the dissemination, in the relevant national local and indigenous languages, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] the International Covenants on Human Rights[12] and other human rights instruments, human rights materials and training manuals, including information on human rights mechanisms and complaint procedures and reports of States parties submitted under international human rights treaties, and to provide information and education in those languages on the practical ways in which national and international institutions and procedures may be utilized to ensure the effective implementation of those instruments;

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[11] A/52/469/Add.1 and Corr.1.

[12] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

8. *Encourages* Governments to support further, through voluntary contributions, the education and public information efforts undertaken by the Office of the High Commissioner within the framework of the Plan of Action;

9. *Requests* the High Commissioner to continue to coordinate and harmonize human rights education and information strategies within the United Nations system, including the implementation of the Plan of Action, in cooperation, inter alia, with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and to ensure maximum effectiveness and efficiency in the collection, use, processing, management and distribution of human rights information and educational materials, including through electronic means;

10. *Encourages* Governments to contribute to the further development of the web site of the Office of the High Commissioner,[4] in particular with respect to the dissemination of human rights education materials and tools, and to continue and expand the publications and external relations programmes of the Office;

11. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to support national capacities for human rights education and information through its technical cooperation programme in the field of human rights, including the organization of training courses and peer education initiatives and the development of targeted training materials for professional audiences, as well as the dissemination of human rights information materials as a component of technical cooperation projects, to develop further its database and resource collection on human rights education and to continue to monitor developments in human rights education;

12. *Urges* the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat to continue to utilize United Nations information centres for the timely dissemination, within their designated areas of activity, of basic information, reference and audio-visual materials on human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the reports of States parties submitted under international human rights instruments and, to that end, to ensure that the information centres are supplied with adequate quantities of those materials;

13. *Stresses* the need for close collaboration between the Office of the High Commissioner and the Department of Public Information in the implementation of the Plan of Action and the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights as well as the need to harmonize their activities with those of other international organizations, including with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on its project entitled "Towards a culture of peace" and the International Committee of the Red Cross, and relevant non-governmental organizations with regard to the dissemination of information on international humanitarian law;

14. *Invites* the specialized agencies and relevant United Nations programmes and funds to continue to contribute, within their respective spheres of competence, to the implementation of the Plan of Action and the World Public Information Campaign and to cooperate and coordinate with each other and with the Office of the High Commissioner in that regard;

15. *Encourages* the relevant organs, bodies and agencies of the United Nations system, all human rights bodies of the United Nations system, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to provide training in human rights for all United Nations personnel and officials;

16. *Encourages* the human rights treaty bodies, when examining reports of States parties, to place emphasis on the obligations of States parties in the area of human rights education and to reflect that emphasis in their concluding observations;

17. *Encourages* all relevant mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights, that is, working groups and special rapporteurs, representatives or experts, to include systematically in their reports a specific section on human rights education, as relevant to their mandate, as well as to include human rights education as an item on their agenda of their annual meetings, with a view to strengthening their contribution to human rights education;

18. *Calls upon* international, regional and national non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations, in particular those concerned with children and youth, women, labour, development, food, housing, education, health care and the environment, as well as all other social justice groups, human rights advocates, educators, religious organizations, the private sector and the media, to undertake specific activities of formal, non-formal and informal education, including cultural events, alone and in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in implementing the Plan of Action;

19. *Welcomes*, in that context, initiatives to include civil society, non-governmental organizations, children and youth in national delegations to world conferences, summits and other meetings, as well as the work of non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental agencies in organizing parallel meetings of non-governmental organizations as well as youth satellite meetings, as an important component of human rights education;

20. *Encourages* Governments, regional organizations and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to explore the potential support and contribution to human rights education of all relevant partners, including the private sector, development, trade and financial institutions and the media, and to seek their cooperation in the development of human rights education strategies;

21. *Encourages* regional organizations to develop strategies for the wider distribution of materials on human rights education through regional networks and to develop region-specific programmes to maximize the participation of national entities, whether governmental or non-governmental, in programmes on human rights education;

22. *Encourages* intergovernmental organizations to assist, upon request, collaboration between governmental institutions and non-governmental organizations at the national level;

23. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue the implementation of and to expand the project entitled "Assisting Communities Together" and to consider other appropriate ways and means to support human rights education activities, including those undertaken by non-governmental organizations;

24. *Requests* the High Commissioner to bring the present resolution to the attention of all members of the international community and of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with human rights education and public information and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the progress made towards the achievement of the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

*77th plenary meeting*
*18 December 2002*

# General Assembly

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**Fifty-seventh session**
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## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/57/556/Add.2 and Corr.1–3)*]

### 57/213. Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its resolution 56/151 of 19 December 2001, and taking note of Commission on Human R... resolution 2002/72 of 25 April 2002,[1]

*Reaffirming* the commitment of all States to fulfil their obligations to promote universal respect for, and observance and protection of, all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, other instruments relating to human rights and international law,

*Affirming* that the enhancement of international cooperation for the promotion and protection of all human rights should continue to be carried out in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter and international law as set forth in Articles 1 and 2 of the Charter and, inter alia, with full respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence, the non-use of force or the threat of force in international relations and non-intervention in matters that are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State,

*Recalling* the Preamble to the Charter, in particular the determination to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small,

*Reaffirming* that everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[2] can be fully realized,

*Reaffirming also* the determination expressed in the Preamble to the Charter to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom, to practice tolerance and good neighbourliness, and to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

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[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2002, Supplement No. 3* (E/2002/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[2] Resolution 217 A (III).

*Considering* the major changes taking place on the international scene and the aspirations of all peoples for an international order based on the principles enshrined in the Charter, including promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, peace, democracy, justice, equality, the rule of law, pluralism, development, better standards of living and solidarity,

*Considering also* that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set out therein, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,

*Reaffirming* that democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing, and that democracy is based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives,

*Emphasizing* that democracy is not only a political concept but that it also has economic and social dimensions,

*Recognizing* that democracy, respect for all human rights, including the right to development, transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society, and effective participation by civil society are an essential part of the necessary foundations for the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development,

*Noting with concern* that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance may be aggravated by, inter alia, inequitable distribution of wealth, marginalization and social exclusion,

*Underlining* the fact that it is imperative for the international community to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all the world's people, and that only through broad and sustained efforts, based on common humanity in all its diversity, can globalization be made fully inclusive and equitable,

*Stressing* that efforts to make globalization fully inclusive and equitable must include policies and measures, at the global level, that correspond to the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition and are formulated and implemented with their effective participation,

*Having listened* to the peoples of the world and recognizing their aspirations to justice, to equality of opportunity for all, to the enjoyment of their human rights, including the right to development, to live in peace and freedom and to equal participation without discrimination in economic, social, cultural, civil and political life,

*Resolved* to take all measures within its power to secure a democratic and equitable international order,

1. *Affirms* that everyone is entitled to a democratic and equitable international order;

2. *Also affirms* that a democratic and equitable international order fosters the full realization of all human rights for all;

3. *Calls upon* all Member States to fulfil their commitment expressed in Durban, South Africa, during the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance to maximize the benefits of globalization through, inter alia, the strengthening and enhancement of international cooperation to increase equality of opportunities for trade, economic growth and sustainable development, global communications through the use of new technologies, and increased intercultural exchange through the preservation and promotion of cultural diversity,[3] and reiterates that only through broad and sustained efforts to create a shared future based upon our common humanity and all its diversity can globalization be made fully inclusive and equitable;

4. *Affirms* that a democratic and equitable international order requires, inter alia, the realization of the following:

(*a*) The right of all peoples to self-determination, by virtue of which they can freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development;

(*b*) The right of peoples and nations to permanent sovereignty over their natural wealth and resources;

(*c*) The right of every human person and all peoples to development;

(*d*) The right of all peoples to peace;

(*e*) The right to an international economic order based on equal participation in the decision-making process, interdependence, mutual interest, solidarity and cooperation among all States;

(*f*) Solidarity, as a fundamental value, by virtue of which global challenges must be managed in a way that distributes costs and burdens fairly, in accordance with basic principles of equity and social justice, and ensures that those who suffer or benefit the least receive help from those who benefit the most;

(*g*) The promotion and consolidation of transparent, democratic, just and accountable international institutions in all areas of cooperation, in particular through the implementation of the principles of full and equal participation in their respective decision-making mechanisms;

(*h*) The right to equitable participation of all, without any discrimination, in domestic and global decision-making;

(*i*) The principle of equitable regional and gender-balanced representation in the composition of the staff of the United Nations system;

(*j*) The promotion of a free, just, effective and balanced international information and communications order, based on international cooperation for the establishment of a new equilibrium and greater reciprocity in the international flow of information, in particular correcting the inequalities in the flow of information to and from developing countries;

(*k*) Respect for cultural diversity and the cultural rights of all, since this enhances cultural pluralism, contributes to a wider exchange of knowledge and understanding of cultural backgrounds, advances the application and enjoyment of universally accepted human rights across the world and fosters stable, friendly relations among peoples and nations worldwide;

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[3] See A/CONF.189/12 and Corr.1, chap. I.

(*l*) The right of every person and all peoples to a healthy environment;

(*m*) The promotion of equitable access to benefits from the international distribution of wealth through enhanced international cooperation, in particular in economic, commercial and financial international relations;

(*n*) The enjoyment by everyone of ownership of the common heritage of mankind;

(*o*) The shared responsibility of the nations of the world for managing worldwide economic and social development, as well as threats to international peace and security that should be exercised multilaterally;

5. *Stresses* the importance of preserving the rich and diverse nature of the international community of nations and peoples, as well as respect for national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds in the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights;

6. *Also stresses* that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that the international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis, and reaffirms that, while the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

7. *Urges* all actors on the international scene to build an international order based on inclusion, justice, equality and equity, human dignity, mutual understanding and promotion of and respect for cultural diversity and universal human rights, and to reject all doctrines of exclusion based on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

8. *Reaffirms* that all States should promote the establishment, maintenance and strengthening of international peace and security and, to that end, should do their utmost to achieve general and complete disarmament under effective international control, as well as to ensure that the resources released by effective disarmament measures are used for comprehensive development, in particular that of the developing countries;

9. *Recalls* the proclamation by the General Assembly of its determination to work urgently for the establishment of an international economic order based on equity, sovereign equality, interdependence, common interest and cooperation among all States, irrespective of their economic and social systems, which shall correct inequalities and redress existing injustices, make it possible to eliminate the widening gap between the developed and the developing countries, and ensure steadily accelerating economic and social development and peace and justice for present and future generations;[4]

10. *Reaffirms* that the international community should devise ways and means to remove the current obstacles and meet the challenges to the full realization of all human rights and to prevent the continuation of human rights violations resulting therefrom throughout the world;

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[4] See resolution 3201 (S-VI).

11. *Urges* States to continue their efforts, through enhanced international cooperation, towards the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order;

12. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights, the human rights treaty bodies, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights to pay due attention, within their respective mandates, to the present resolution and to make contributions towards its implementation;

13. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner to build upon the issue of the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order, to take into account the present resolution in the preparations and development of the expert seminar to examine the interdependence between democracy and human rights that it will convene in January 2003, and to invite all Governments, specialized agencies, United Nations funds and programmes and interested non-governmental organizations to attend that seminar;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of Member States, United Nations organs, bodies and components, intergovernmental organizations, in particular the Bretton Woods institutions, and non-governmental organizations, and to disseminate it on the widest possible basis;

15. *Decides* to continue consideration of the matter at its fifty-ninth session under the agenda item entitled "Human rights questions".

*77th plenary meeting*
*18 December 2002*

United Nations A/RES/57/214

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## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/57/556/Add.2 and Corr.1–3)*]

### 57/214. Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] which guarantees the right to life, liberty and security of person, and the relevant provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[2]

*Having regard* to the legal framework of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, including the provisions contained in Commission on Human Rights resolution 1992/72 of 5 March 1992[3] and General Assembly resolution 47/136 of 18 December 1992,

*Mindful* of its resolutions on the subject of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, of which the most recent is resolution 55/111 of 4 December 2000, and resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights on the subject, and taking note of the most recent, resolution 2002/36 of 22 April 2002,[4]

*Recalling* Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/50 of 25 May 1984 and the safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty, annexed thereto, and Council resolution 1989/64 of 24 May 1989 on their implementation, as well as the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 40/34 of 29 November 1985,

*Recalling also* Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/65 of 24 May 1989, in which the Council recommended the Principles on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions,

*Dismayed* that in a number of countries impunity, the negation of justice, continues to prevail and often remains the main cause of the continuing occurrence of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions in those countries,

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[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1992, Supplement No. 2* (E/1992/22), chap. II, sect. A.

[4] Ibid., *2002, Supplement No. 3* (E/2002/23), chap. II, sect. A.

*Acknowledging* the entry into force on 1 July 2002 of the Rome Statute establishing the International Criminal Court,[5] thereby contributing to ensuring prosecution and the prevention of impunity concerning extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions,

*Convinced* of the need for effective action to combat and to eliminate the abhorrent practice of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, which represent a flagrant violation of the right to life,

1. *Strongly condemns once again* all the extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions that continue to take place throughout the world;

2. *Demands* that all Governments ensure that the practice of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions is brought to an end and that they take effective action to combat and eliminate the phenomenon in all its forms;

3. *Acknowledges* the historic significance of the establishment of the International Criminal Court on 1 July 2002, and the fact that a significant number of States have already signed, ratified or acceded to the Rome Statute,[5] and calls upon all other States to consider becoming parties to the Statute;

4. *Notes with deep concern* that impunity continues to be a major cause of the perpetuation of violations of human rights, including extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions;

5. *Reiterates* the obligation of all Governments to conduct exhaustive and impartial investigations into all suspected cases of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, to identify and bring to justice those responsible, while ensuring the right of every person to a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal established by law, to grant adequate compensation within a reasonable time to the victims or their families and to adopt all necessary measures, including legal and judicial measures, in order to bring an end to impunity and to prevent the further occurrence of such executions;

6. *Reaffirms* the obligation of Governments to ensure the protection of the right to life of all persons under their jurisdiction, and calls upon Governments concerned to investigate promptly and thoroughly all cases of killings committed in the name of passion or in the name of honour, all killings committed for any discriminatory reason, including sexual orientation, racially motivated violence leading to the death of the victim, killings of persons for reasons related to their peaceful activities as human rights defenders or as journalists, as well as other cases where a person's right to life has been violated, and to bring those responsible to justice before a competent, independent and impartial judiciary and ensure that such killings, including killings committed by security forces, paramilitary groups or private forces, are neither condoned nor sanctioned by government officials or personnel;

7. *Urges* Governments to undertake all necessary and possible measures to prevent loss of life, in particular that of children, during public demonstrations, internal and communal violence, civil unrest and public emergencies or armed conflicts, and to ensure that the police and security forces receive thorough training in human rights matters, in particular with regard to restrictions on the use of force

[5] *Official Records of the United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court, Rome, 15 June–17 July 1998*, vol. I. *Final documents* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.I.5), sect. A.

and firearms in the discharge of their functions, and that they act with restraint and respect international human rights standards when carrying out their duties;

8. *Stresses* the importance of States taking effective measures to end impunity with regard to extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, inter alia, through the adoption of preventive measures, and calls upon Governments to ensure that such measures are included in post-conflict peace-building measures;

9. *Encourages* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to organize training programmes and to support projects with a view to training or educating military forces, law enforcement officers and government officials in human rights and humanitarian law issues connected with their work, and appeals to the international community and requests the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to support endeavours to that end;

10. *Reaffirms* Economic and Social Council decision 2001/266 of 24 July 2001, in which the Council endorsed the decision of the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 2001/45 of 23 April 2001,[6] to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions for three years;

11. *Takes note* of the interim report of the Special Rapporteur to the General Assembly[7] and the recommendations contained therein;

12. *Recalls* that the Commission, in its resolution 2001/45, requested the Special Rapporteur, in carrying out her mandate:

(*a*) To continue to examine situations of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and to submit her findings on an annual basis, together with conclusions and recommendations, to the Commission, as well as such reports as the Special Rapporteur deems necessary in order to keep the Commission informed about serious situations of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions that warrant its immediate attention;

(*b*) To respond effectively to information that comes before her, in particular when an extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary execution is imminent or seriously threatened or when such an execution has occurred;

(*c*) To enhance further her dialogue with Governments, as well as to follow up on recommendations made in reports after visits to particular countries;

(*d*) To continue to pay special attention to extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions of children and to allegations concerning violations of the right to life in the context of violence against participants in demonstrations and other peaceful public manifestations or against persons belonging to minorities;

(*e*) To continue to pay special attention to extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions where the victims are individuals carrying out peaceful activities in defence of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(*f*) To continue monitoring the implementation of existing international standards on safeguards and restrictions relating to the imposition of capital punishment, bearing in mind the comments made by the Human Rights Committee

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[6] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 3* (E/2001/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[7] A/57/138.

in its interpretation of article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[2] as well as the Second Optional Protocol thereto,[8]

(g) To apply a gender perspective in her work;

13. *Recognizes* the importance of raising awareness for the elimination of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, for which impunity should be neither condoned nor tolerated, and of stressing that extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions are a flagrant violation of human rights, in particular the right to life, of which no one should be arbitrarily deprived, and in this regard encourages the Special Rapporteur to continue, within her mandate, to collect information from all concerned, to respond effectively to reliable information that comes before her, to follow up on communications and country visits and to seek the views and comments of Governments and to reflect them, as appropriate, in her reports;

14. *Urges* the Special Rapporteur to continue, within her mandate, to bring to the attention of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights situations of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions which are of particularly serious concern or where early action might prevent further deterioration;

15. *Welcomes* the cooperation established between the Special Rapporteur and other United Nations mechanisms and procedures relating to human rights, as well as with medical and forensic experts, and encourages the Special Rapporteur to continue efforts in that regard;

16. *Strongly urges* all Governments, in particular those who have not yet done so, to respond without undue delay to the communications and requests for information transmitted to them by the Special Rapporteur, and urges them and all others concerned to cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur so that she may carry out her mandate effectively, including, where appropriate, by issuing invitations to the Special Rapporteur when she so requests;

17. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Governments that have invited the Special Rapporteur to visit their countries, asks them to examine carefully the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur, invites them to report to the Special Rapporteur on the actions taken on those recommendations, and requests other Governments to cooperate in a similar way;

18. *Calls upon* the Governments of all States in which the death penalty has not been abolished to comply with their obligations under relevant provisions of international human rights instruments, keeping in mind the safeguards and guarantees referred to in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1984/50 and 1989/64;

19. *Again requests* the Secretary-General to continue to use his best endeavours in cases where the minimum standards of legal safeguards provided for in articles 6, 9, 14 and 15 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights appear not to have been respected;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with adequate human, financial and material resources to enable her to carry out her mandate effectively, including through country visits;

[8] Resolution 44/128, annex.

21. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue, in close collaboration with the High Commissioner, in conformity with the mandate of the High Commissioner established by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, to ensure that personnel specialized in human rights and humanitarian law issues form part of United Nations missions, where appropriate, in order to deal with serious violations of human rights, such as extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions;

22. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the situation worldwide in regard to extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and her recommendations for more effective action to combat that phenomenon.

*77th plenary meeting*
*18 December 2002*

United Nations A/RES/57/215

General Assembly

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Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 109 (*b*)

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/57/556/Add.2 and Corr.1–3)*]

### 57/215. Question of enforced or involuntary disappearances

*The General Assembly*,

*Guided* by the purposes and principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] the International Covenants on Human Rights[2] and the other relevant international human rights instruments,

*Recalling* its resolution 33/173 of 20 December 1978 concerning disappeared persons and its resolutions on the question of enforced or involuntary disappearances, in particular resolution 55/103 of 4 December 2000,

*Recalling also* its resolution 47/133 of 18 December 1992 proclaiming the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance as a body of principles for all States,

*Deeply concerned*, in particular, by the intensification of enforced disappearances, including arrest, detention and abduction, where these are part of or amount to enforced disappearances, in various regions of the world and by the growing number of reports concerning the harassment, ill-treatment and intimidation of witnesses of disappearances or relatives of persons who have disappeared,

*Emphasizing* that impunity with regard to enforced disappearances contributes to the perpetuation of this phenomenon and constitutes one of the obstacles to the elucidation of its manifestations,

*Taking note with interest* of the initiatives taken at the national and international levels in order to end impunity,

*Acknowledging* the fact that acts of enforced disappearance, as defined in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,[3] come within the jurisdiction of the Court as crimes against humanity,

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[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[3] *Official Records of the United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court, Rome, 15 June–17 July 1998*, vol. I: *Final documents* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.I.5), sect. A.

*Bearing in mind* Commission on Human Rights resolution 2002/41 of 23 April 2002,[4]

*Convinced* that further efforts are needed to promote wider awareness of and respect for the Declaration, and taking note in this regard of the report of the Secretary-General,[5]

*Taking note* of the last report submitted by the Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances of the Commission on Human Rights,[6]

1. *Reaffirms* that any act of enforced disappearance is an offence to human dignity and a grave and flagrant violation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[1] and reaffirmed and developed in other international instruments in this field, as well as a violation of the rules of international law, and that no State shall practise, permit or tolerate enforced disappearances as proclaimed in the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances;

2. *Urges* all Governments to take appropriate legislative or other steps to prevent and suppress the practice of enforced disappearances, in keeping with the Declaration, and to take action to that end at the national and regional levels and in cooperation with the United Nations, including through the provision of technical assistance;

3. *Calls upon* Governments to take steps to ensure that, when a state of emergency is introduced, the protection of human rights is ensured, in particular as regards the prevention of enforced disappearances;

4. *Reminds* Governments that impunity with regard to enforced disappearances contributes to the perpetuation of this phenomenon and constitutes one of the obstacles to the elucidation of its manifestations, and in this respect also reminds them of the need to ensure that their competent authorities conduct prompt and impartial inquiries in all circumstances in which there is a reason to believe that an enforced disappearance has occurred in territory under their jurisdiction, and that, if allegations are confirmed, perpetrators should be prosecuted;

5. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Governments that are investigating, have developed or are developing appropriate mechanisms to investigate any cases of enforced disappearances which are brought to their attention, and urges all the Governments concerned to expand their efforts in this area;

6. *Once again urges* the Governments concerned to take steps to protect the families of disappeared persons against any intimidation or ill-treatment to which they may be subjected;

7. *Reaffirms* that all persons deprived of liberty must be released in a manner permitting reliable verification that they have actually been released and, further, have been released in conditions in which their physical integrity and ability to exercise their rights are assured;

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[4] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2002, Supplement No. 3* (E/2002/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[5] A/57/140.

[6] E/CN.4/2002/79.

8. *Encourages* States, as some have already done, to provide concrete information on measures taken to give effect to the Declaration, as well as obstacles encountered;

9. *Requests* all States to consider the possibility of disseminating the text of the Declaration in their respective national languages and to facilitate its dissemination in local languages;

10. *Notes* the action taken by non-governmental organizations to encourage implementation of the Declaration, and invites them to continue to facilitate its dissemination and to contribute to the work of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights;

11. *Stresses* the importance of the work of the Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances of the Commission on Human Rights and encourages it in the execution of its mandate to continue to promote communication between the families of disappeared persons and the Governments concerned, with a view to ensuring that sufficiently documented and clearly identified individual cases are investigated, and to ascertaining whether such information falls under its mandate and contains the required elements;

12. *Invites* the Working Group to continue to seek the views and comments of all concerned, including Member States, in preparing its reports;

13. *Also invites* the Working Group to identify obstacles to the realization of the provisions of the Declaration, to recommend ways of overcoming those obstacles and, in this regard, to continue a dialogue with Governments and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

14. *Encourages* the Working Group to continue to consider the question of impunity, in the light of the relevant provisions of the Declaration and of the final reports submitted by the special rapporteurs[7] appointed by the Subcommission;

15. *Requests* the Working Group to pay the utmost attention to cases of children subjected to enforced disappearance and children of disappeared persons and to cooperate closely with the Governments concerned to search for and identify those children;

16. *Appeals* to the Governments concerned, in particular those which have not yet replied to the communications transmitted by the Working Group, to cooperate fully with it and, in particular, to reply promptly to its requests for information so that, while respecting its working methods based on discretion, it may perform its strictly humanitarian role;

17. *Encourages* the Governments concerned to give serious consideration to inviting the Working Group to visit their countries so as to enable the Group to fulfil its mandate even more effectively;

18. *Expresses its profound thanks* to the many Governments that have cooperated with the Working Group and replied to its requests for information and to the Governments that have invited the Group to visit their countries, requests them to give all necessary attention to the recommendations of the Group, and invites them to inform the Group of any action they take on those recommendations;

[7] E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/8 and E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/20/Rev.1

19. *Calls upon* the Commission on Human Rights to continue to study this question as a matter of priority and to take any steps it may deem necessary to the pursuit of the task of the Working Group and to the follow-up to its recommendations when it considers the report to be submitted by the Group to the Commission at its fifty-ninth session;

20. *Renews its requests* to the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Working Group with all of the facilities it requires to perform its functions, especially for carrying out missions and following them up;

21. *Recalls* Economic and Social Council decision 2001/221 of 4 June 2001 in which the Council endorsed the decision of the Commission on Human Rights to create an intersessional open-ended working group, with the mandate to prepare a draft legally binding normative instrument for the protection of all persons from enforced disappearance;

22. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the report of the independent expert charged with examining the existing international criminal and human rights framework for the protection of persons from enforced or involuntary disappearances,[8] which, in accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/46 of 23 April 2001,[9] will be presented to the intersessional working group established pursuant to that resolution, at its first session;

23. *Welcomes* the decision of the Commission to convene the intersessional working group before its fifty-ninth session, to prepare, for consideration and adoption by the General Assembly, a draft legally binding normative instrument for the protection of all persons from enforced disappearance, on the basis of the Declaration adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/133, in the light of the work of the independent expert and taking into account, inter alia, the draft international convention on the protection of all persons from enforced disappearance,[10] transmitted by the Subcommission in its resolution 1998/25 of 26 August 1998;[11]

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep it informed of the steps he takes to secure the widespread dissemination and promotion of the Declaration;

25. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-ninth session a report on the steps taken to implement the present resolution;

26. *Decides* to consider the question of enforced disappearances, in particular the implementation of the Declaration, at its fifty-ninth session, under the sub-item entitled "Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

*77th plenary meeting*
*18 December 2002*

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[8] E/CN.4/2002/71.

[9] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 3* (E/2001/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[10] E/CN.4/Sub.2/1998/19, annex.

[11] See E/CN.4/1999/4-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1998/45.

# General Assembly

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27 February 2003

**Fifty-seventh session**
Agenda item 109 (*b*)

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/57/556/Add.2 and Corr.1-3)*]

### 57/216. Promotion of the right of peoples to peace

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its resolution 39/11 of 12 November 1984, entitled "Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace",

*Recalling also* Commission on Human Rights resolution 2002/71 of 25 April 2002, entitled "Promotion of the right of peoples to peace",[1]

*Bearing in mind* the fundamental principles of international law set forth in the Charter of the United Nations,

*Reaffirming* the obligation of all States to settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice are not endangered,

*Reaffirming also* the obligation of all States to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations,

*Reaffirming further* the importance of ensuring respect for the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States and non-intervention in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State, in accordance with the Charter and international law,

*Reaffirming* that all peoples have the right to self-determination, by virtue of which they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development,

*Reaffirming also* that the subjection of peoples to alien subjugation, domination and exploitation constitutes a denial of fundamental rights, is contrary to the Charter and is an impediment to the promotion of world peace and cooperation,

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[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2002, Supplement No. 3* (E/2002/23), chap. II, sect. A.

*Recalling* that everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[1] can be fully realized,

*Reaffirming* that there is a close relationship between disarmament and development and that progress in the field of disarmament would considerably promote progress in the field of development and that resources released through disarmament measures should be devoted to the economic and social development and well-being of all peoples, in particular those of the developing countries,

*Convinced* of the aim of the creation of conditions of stability and well-being which are necessary for peaceful and friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples,

*Convinced also* that life without war is the primary international prerequisite for the material well-being, development and progress of countries, and for the full implementation of the rights and fundamental human freedoms proclaimed by the United Nations,

1. *Reaffirms* the solemn proclamation that the peoples of our planet have a sacred right to peace;

2. *Solemnly declares* that the preservation of the right of peoples to peace and the promotion of its implementation constitute a fundamental obligation of each State;

3. *Emphasizes* that ensuring the exercise of the right of peoples to peace demands that the policies of States be directed towards the elimination of the threat of war, particularly nuclear war, the renunciation of the use or threat of use of force in international relations and the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations;

4. *Affirms* that all States should promote the establishment, maintenance and strengthening of international peace and security and, to that end, should do their utmost to achieve general and complete disarmament under effective international control, as well as to ensure that the resources released by effective disarmament measures are used for comprehensive development, in particular that of the developing countries;

5. *Urges* the international community to devote part of the resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social development, with a view to reducing the ever-widening gap between developed and developing countries, and to promote the realization of all human rights for all;

6. *Urges* all States to refrain from using weapons with indiscriminate effects on human health, the environment and economic and social well-being;

7. *Expresses concern* about the real danger of the weaponization of outer space, and calls upon all States to contribute actively to the objective of the peaceful use of outer space and of the prevention of an arms race in outer space;

8. *Urges* all States to refrain from taking measures which encourage the resurgence of a new arms race, bearing in mind all the resulting predictable consequences for global peace and security, for development and for the full realization of all human rights for all;

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[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

9 *Decides* to continue consideration of the question of the promotion of the right of peoples to peace at its fifty-eighth session, under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

*77th plenary meeting*
*18 December 2002*

# General Assembly

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**Fifty-seventh session**
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## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/57/556/Add.2 and Corr.1-3)*]

### 57/217. Respect for the purposes and principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations to achieve international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms and in solving international problems of a humanitarian character

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* that, in accordance with Article 56 of the Charter of the United Nations, all Member States have pledged themselves to take joint and separate action in cooperation with the Organization for the achievement of the purposes set forth in Article 55, including universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

*Recalling also* the Preamble to the Charter, in particular the determination to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small,

*Reaffirming* that the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms must be considered a priority objective of the United Nations in accordance with its purposes and principles, in particular the purpose of international cooperation, and that, within the framework of these purposes and principles, the promotion and protection of all human rights is a legitimate concern of the international community,

*Considering* the major changes taking place on the international scene and the aspirations of all peoples to an international order based on the principles enshrined in the Charter, including promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, peace, democracy, justice, equality, the rule of law, pluralism, development, better standards of living and solidarity,

*Recognizing* that the international community should devise ways and means to remove current obstacles and meet the challenges to the full realization of all human rights and to prevent the continuation of human rights violations resulting therefrom throughout the world, and should continue to pay attention to the importance of mutual cooperation, understanding and dialogue in ensuring the promotion and protection of all human rights,

*Reaffirming* that the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights is essential for the full achievement of the purposes of the United

Nations and that human rights and fundamental freedoms are the birthright of all human beings, the promotion and protection of such rights and freedoms being the first responsibility of Governments,

*Reaffirming also* that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that the international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis,

*Reaffirming further* the various Articles of the Charter setting out the respective powers and functions of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, as the paramount framework for the achievement of the purposes of the United Nations,

*Reaffirming* the commitment of all States to fulfil their obligations under other important instruments of international law, in particular those of international human rights and humanitarian law,

*Taking into account* that, in accordance with Article 103 of the Charter, in the event of a conflict between the obligations of the Members of the United Nations under the Charter and their obligations under any other international agreement, their obligations under the Charter shall prevail,

*Recalling* all its previous resolutions on the question, including its resolution 56/152 of 19 December 2001,

1. *Reiterates* the solemn commitment of all States to enhance international cooperation in the field of human rights and in the solution to international problems of a humanitarian character in full compliance with the Charter of the United Nations, inter alia, by the strict observance of all the purposes and principles set forth in Articles 1 and 2 thereof;

2. *Stresses* the vital role of the work of United Nations and regional arrangements, acting consistently with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter, in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as in solving international problems of a humanitarian character, and affirms that all States, in these activities, must fully comply with the principles set forth in Article 2 of the Charter, in particular respecting the sovereign equality of all States and refraining from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or acting in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations;

3. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations shall promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion;

4. *Calls upon* all States to cooperate fully, through constructive dialogue, to ensure the promotion and protection of all human rights for all and in promoting peaceful solutions to international problems of a humanitarian character and, in their actions towards that purpose, to comply strictly with the principles and norms of international law, inter alia, by fully respecting international human rights and humanitarian law;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of Member States, organs, bodies and other components of the United Nations system, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and to disseminate it as widely as possible;

6. *Decides* to consider this question at its fifty-eighth session under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

*77th plenary meeting*
*18 December 2002*

United Nations A/RES/57/218

General Assembly

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27 February 2003

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 109 (*b*)

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

*[on the report of the Third Committee (A/57/526/Add.2 and Corr.1-3)]*

### 57/218. Protection of migrants

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its resolution 56/170 of 19 December 2001,

*Reaffirming* that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[1] proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set out therein, without distinction of any kind, in particular as to race, colour or national origin,

*Reaffirming also* the provisions concerning migrants adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights,[2] the International Conference on Population and Development,[3] the World Summit for Social Development[4] and the Fourth World Conference on Women,[5]

*Welcoming* the provisions on the human rights of migrants contained in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance on 8 September 2001,[6] and expressing its satisfaction about the important recommendations made for the development of international and national strategies for the protection of migrants and for the design of migration policies that fully respect the human rights of migrants,

*Recalling* its resolution 40/144 of 13 December 1985, by which it approved the Declaration on the Human Rights of Individuals Who are not Nationals of the Country in which They Live,

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[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] See A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[3] See *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[4] See *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[5] See *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[6] See A/CONF.189/12 and Corr.1, chap. I.

*Recognizing* the positive contributions that migrants frequently make, including through their eventual integration into their host society,

*Bearing in mind* the situation of vulnerability in which migrants and their families frequently find themselves, owing, inter alia, to their absence from their States of origin and to the difficulties they encounter because of differences of language, custom and culture, as well as the economic and social difficulties and obstacles to the return to their States of origin of migrants who are non-documented or in an irregular situation,

*Bearing in mind also* the need for a focused and consistent approach towards migrants as a specific vulnerable group, in particular migrant women and children,

*Deeply concerned* about the manifestations of violence, racism, xenophobia and other forms of discrimination and inhuman and degrading treatment against migrants, especially women and children, in different parts of the world,

*Underlining* the importance of the creation of conditions that foster greater harmony between migrants and the rest of the society of the States in which they reside, with the aim of eliminating the growing manifestations of racism and xenophobia perpetrated in segments of many societies by individuals or groups against migrants,

*Taking note* of Advisory Opinion OC-16/99, issued by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights on 1 October 1999, on The Right to Information on Consular Assistance in the Framework of the Guarantees of the Due Process of Law, in the case of foreign nationals detained by the authorities of a receiving State,

*Encouraged* by the increasing interest of the international community in the effective and full protection of the human rights of all migrants, and underlining the need to make further efforts to ensure respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants,

*Welcoming* the fact that a number of States have already ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the protocols thereto,[7] and reiterating the importance of ensuring the speedy entry into force of those instruments in accordance with resolutions 55/25 of 15 November 2000 and 55/255 of 31 May 2001,

1. *Welcomes* the renewed commitment made in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[8] to take measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of migrants, migrant workers and their families, to eliminate the increasing acts of racism and xenophobia in many societies and to promote greater harmony and tolerance in all societies;

2. *Requests* all Member States, in conformity with their respective constitutional systems, effectively to promote and protect the human rights of all migrants, in conformity with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[9] and the international instruments to which they are party, which may include the International Covenants on Human Rights,[9] the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,[10] the International

[7] Resolution 55/25, annexes I-III, and resolution 55/255, annex.

[8] See resolution 55/2.

[9] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[10] Resolution 39/46, annex.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[11] the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,[12] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[13] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[14] and other applicable international human rights instruments;

3. *Calls upon* States to promote and protect fully the human rights of migrants, as contained in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;[5]

4. *Strongly condemns* all forms of racial discrimination and xenophobia with regard to access to employment, vocational training, housing, schooling, health services and social services, as well as services intended for use by the public, and welcomes the active role played by governmental and non-governmental organizations in combating racism and assisting individual victims of racist acts, including migrant victims;

5. *Requests* all States, in conformity with national legislation, firmly to prosecute cases of violation of labour law with regard to the conditions of work of migrant workers, including those related to, inter alia, their remuneration and the conditions of health and safety at work;

6. *Calls upon* all States to review and, where necessary, revise immigration policies with a view to eliminating all discriminatory practices against migrants and to provide specialized training for government policy-making and law enforcement, immigration and other concerned officials, thus underlining the importance of effective action to create conditions that foster greater harmony and tolerance within societies;

7. *Reiterates* the need for all States parties to protect fully the universally recognized human rights of migrants, especially women and children, regardless of their legal status, and to treat them humanely, in particular with regard to assistance and protection;

8. *Reaffirms emphatically* the duty of States parties to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 1963[15] to ensure full respect for and observance of the Convention, in particular with regard to the right of foreign nationals, regardless of their immigration status, to communicate with a consular official of their own State in the case of detention, and the obligation of the State in whose territory the detention occurs to inform the foreign national of that right;

9. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of Governments to safeguard and protect the rights of migrants against illegal or violent acts, in particular acts of racial discrimination and crimes perpetrated with racist or xenophobic motivation by individuals or groups, and urges them to reinforce measures in this regard;

10. *Urges* all States to adopt effective measures to put an end to the arbitrary arrest and detention of migrants, including by individuals or groups;

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[11] Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

[12] Resolution 45/158, annex.

[13] Resolution 34/180, annex.

[14] Resolution 44/25, annex.

[15] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 596, No. 8638.

11. *Takes note* of the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the human rights of migrants,[6] and requests her to continue taking into account the recommendations contained in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action in the performance of her mandate, tasks and duties;

12. *Encourages* Member States that have not yet done so to enact domestic criminal legislation to combat the international trafficking of migrants, which should take into account, in particular, trafficking that endangers the lives of migrants or includes different forms of servitude or exploitation, such as any form of debt bondage or sexual or labour exploitation, and to strengthen international cooperation to combat such trafficking;

13. *Encourages* States to consider participating in international and regional dialogues on migration that include countries of origin and destination, as well as countries of transit, and invites them to consider negotiating bilateral and regional agreements on migrant workers in the framework of applicable human rights law and designing and implementing programmes with States of other regions to protect the rights of migrants;

14. *Encourages* all Governments to remove obstacles that may prevent the safe, unrestricted and expeditious transfer of earnings, assets and pensions of migrants to their country of origin or to any other countries, in conformity with applicable legislation, and to consider, as appropriate, measures to solve other problems that may impede such transfers;

15. *Welcomes* immigration programmes, adopted by some countries, that allow migrants to integrate fully into the host countries, facilitate family reunification and promote a harmonious and tolerant environment, and encourages States to consider the possibility of adopting these types of programmes;

16. *Calls upon* all States to protect the human rights of migrant children, in particular unaccompanied migrant children, ensuring that the best interests of the children and the importance of reuniting them with their parents, when possible and appropriate, are the paramount consideration, and encourages the relevant United Nations bodies, within the framework of their respective mandates, to pay special attention to the conditions of migrant children in all States and, where necessary, to put forward recommendations for strengthening their protection;

17. *Welcomes* the proclamation of 18 December as International Migrants Day and the invitation to Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to observe it through, inter alia, the dissemination of information on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants and on their economic, social and cultural contributions to their host and home countries, the sharing of experience and the design of actions to ensure their protection;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution under the sub-item entitled "Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms", and requests the Special Rapporteur to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session an interim report on the fulfilment of her mandate.

*77th plenary meeting*
*18 December 2002*

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[6] See A/57/292.